

colonists in Boston? Of all of the things they thought of, you know what that group came up with? They said the most important thing they could do was ask Virginians all across that Commonwealth to go down and pray for the colonists in Boston.

They spent that night writing a prayer resolution. They didn't know how to do it. They hadn't done it in years. They looked back at old puritan resolutions. They wrote one and went into the General Assembly, and they didn't know how it was going to be received. The next day, the Virginia General Assembly voted it unanimously and didn't change a word. The Governor was so irate, how dare they ask and pray against the King himself, that he stormed in with that proclamation in his hand and he dissolved the Virginia General Assembly.

Well, they were a group of individuals that didn't like the word "no," and so they walked across the street—Thomas Jefferson, Patrick Henry, Peyton Randolph, Richard Henry Lee, and a guy by the name of George Washington and several others, and they wrote a resolution that changed the world, a resolution that said that an attack on one colony was an attack on all of them, and they called for the first ever Congressional Continental Congress.

That Congress, as you know, would meet. And as Mr. GOHMERT pointed out, when they couldn't agree on anything else, the one thing they agreed on was opening with prayer. That Congress led to the Second Congress. In the Second Congress, they appointed a committee—Ben Franklin, John Adams, Thomas Jefferson, Robert Livingston, and Roger Sherman—to write a declaration that would birth this country. And as we are proud of in Virginia, the scrivener of that declaration was Thomas Jefferson. He would later say that he didn't write any new ideas or principles. He wrote concepts that had been heard and preached from pulpits across the Commonwealth and across this Nation, concepts that said this: Our rights didn't come from any act, any king, any committee, but they came from the Creator himself; and if they came from Him, they could never be taken away.

They went on to win that war, to win their freedom, but it didn't last long before it was challenged. And in 1812, in that war, as you know, Francis Scott Key penned that great poem that became our national anthem, the Star-Spangled Banner, and he wrote what is right behind you, and he said: Our motto will ever be "In God We Trust."

As we went into another great war that would split this country, the Civil War, this Congress declared that that motto, "In God We Trust," could be on our coins. Later, the Supreme Court would have it challenged, but in the 1890s would recount the great history of faith in this country. And almost a half century later, when the greatest battle of freedom that ever was fought

on the shores of Normandy was about to take place, Franklin Roosevelt led this entire Nation in prayer asking for blessings upon us.

After that great war and our victory, we came back in this Congress and asked where are we going to put our trust. Are we going to put it in that great atom bomb, in our resources and in our economy? This Congress said, no, our motto would be "In God We Trust," and they adopted that as our motto.

And when I was a young boy, John Kennedy, facing the Cuban missile crisis, came out and said: The guiding principle of this country has always been, is today, and will forever be, in God we trust.

So, Mr. Speaker, with that great history of faith, why is it that faith is under attack so much across this Nation? Well, Mr. Speaker, tune in, because in a few weeks we'll be back on this floor. We'll tell you who's doing it, why they're doing it, and what we need to do to stop it.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I thank you for the time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

CBC HOUR: IMMIGRATION REFORM

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DAINES). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2013, the gentleman from New York (Mr. JEFFRIES) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. JEFFRIES. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members be given 5 days to revise and extend their remarks on the subject of my Special Order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

Mr. JEFFRIES. Today we are here as members of the Congressional Black Caucus to weigh in on the important issue that confronts this Nation as it relates to the need for comprehensive immigration reform. It's my honor and my privilege to represent the Eighth Congressional District anchored in Brooklyn and parts of southwest Queens, one of the most diverse districts in the country; a district that has blacks and whites, Asians, Latinos, and immigrants from every corner of the world. I recognize in the capacity of my representation in that district the significance that immigrants have given both to the communities that I represent as well as to the city of New York, the State, and the Nation.

I'm proud that we've been joined by several distinguished members of the Congressional Black Caucus which, for more than four decades, has been known as the conscience of the Congress. And in that capacity, the Congressional Black Caucus has, year after year, spent time trying to perfect our democracy and create a more perfect Union. We confront that moment right

now, here, in this great country of ours as we try and figure out how we deal with creating a pathway towards citizenship for the more than 11 million undocumented immigrants who are forced to toil in the shadows.

We've been joined today by a co-anchor for this next hour, a distinguished classmate of mine from the great State of Nevada, the gentleman STEVEN HORSFORD, who had the opportunity, I believe, last week to be present while President Barack Obama delivered his remarks as they relate to immigration reform. And so I'd like to ask Mr. HORSFORD if he might comment on the President's remarks and weigh in on the immigration debate from his perspective as a representative from the important State of Nevada.

Mr. HORSFORD. Mr. Speaker, first I'd like to thank my classmate and colleague and say I look forward to serving with him in this historic 113th Congress as we work together to make this a more perfect Union.

I also represent one of the more diverse districts in the United States Congress. My district is 25 percent Latino, 16 percent African American, 7 percent Asian American, 2 percent Native American. It is a district that reflects both the urban as well as the rural components and communities of our great State of Nevada.

□ 2010

In fact, Congressional District 4 reflects the State of Nevada, and Nevada increasingly reflects all of America. And so I believe that is why President Obama decided, of all places that he could visit, he visited Nevada last week to discuss the fierce urgency of now in adopting a comprehensive immigration reform by this Congress; the fact that Nevada reflects the changing demographics of our country, but it also reflects the broken system which is our immigration system.

And so, as I listened to the President, and as we honor today the 100th birthday of Rosa Parks, I reflect on these issues as a basic fundamental civil right, a human right that is guaranteed to us. So today does mark the 100th birthday of Rosa Parks, an icon in the struggle for justice, a woman who was known as the mother of the civil rights movement.

As an African American woman confronting prejudice and unequal treatment under the law, Mrs. Parks remarked that what pushed her to say "no" on that fateful day in Montgomery was the simple fact that her "mistreatment was just not right," and she was "tired of it."

She said, and I quote:

I did not want to be mistreated; I did not want to be deprived of a seat that I had paid for. It was just time . . . There was opportunity for me to take a stand to express the way that I felt about being treated in that manner. I had not planned to get arrested. I had plenty to do without having to end up in jail. But when I had to face that decision, I didn't hesitate to do so because I felt that we had endured that too long. The more we gave

in, the more we complied with that kind of treatment, the more oppressive it became.

It was not complicated. It was prejudice. It was unfair, and she was sick of it. She was tired of the constant drumbeat of injustice directing every minute of her day. She was tired of facing inequality in a country founded on principles of liberty and justice for all. Her act of civil disobedience sparked a social movement that changed our country forever, and she did it because "it was just time."

So today, we honor her courage and her bravery. We remember her legacy and draw lessons from her actions. We take up the cause of promoting more just, fair and humane policy for all, because that's what we owe Mrs. Parks and all our civil rights leaders.

It is our tribute to those larger-than-life pioneers. As Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. said, "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere." It is that creed of the civil rights movement that still motivates us today.

So today we take up the cause of joining arms with our immigrant brothers and sisters in that spirit. The time is now to lend a hand to those who confront injustice as a result of a broken immigration system. It is just time.

For many undocumented immigrants in our country, they are waiting to start their lives. They are waiting to start a business. They are waiting to reunite with their families, often for years on end.

And while they wait, children see their parents deported. Students get stuck in an educational purgatory and can't attend college and better their lives or get a job in the country that trained them. And mothers and fathers can't provide for their family or care for their loved ones without keeping them in the shadows.

So they can't wait any longer. We can't wait any longer. And as Rosa Parks said, It is just time.

From Africa to Europe to Asia, our dysfunctional immigration system is a disincentive to the best and the brightest worldwide from coming to our great country. We throw talent away. We tear families apart. We show disregard for those trying to live the American Dream.

For far too long, we have put off comprehensive immigration reform, but now we are taking up the opportunity to do something about it. And we cannot let this moment pass. It is in that spirit that we hold today's discussion.

We will not wait any longer. We have to continue strengthening our border, but we will act on comprehensive immigration reform without delay. We will crack down on employers, but we will make sure that there is a pathway to citizenship for those who are here at no fault of their own. And we will fulfill our heritage as a Nation of immigrants and a Nation of laws.

Justice, compassion, and equal protection are our common cause. We have

an opportunity to embrace dynamism that immigrants bring to our country, and now is the time to do it.

As I said, this is a civil rights issue. In fact, it is the civil rights and human rights issue of our generation. Just like the civil rights issues of the sixties that were fought by African Americans, and the women's rights issues before that, this is a civil rights issue that must be advocated by all who believe in a sense of justice, opportunity and equality for every person.

And as we work together, we can move forward on immigration reform for the good of our country and for the good of all of us as human beings.

Mr. JEFFRIES. I thank the gentleman from Nevada.

We've been joined by the distinguished chair of the Congressional Black Caucus, the gentlelady from Cleveland, Ohio, Representative MARCIA FUDGE. I yield her such time as she may consume.

Ms. FUDGE. I thank you so very much. It is indeed a pleasure for me to be with these young gentlemen here today. I want to thank the gentleman from New York, and I look forward to his leadership as he anchors this hour for the 113th Congress, and I'm certain that other members of his class will be joining him on a regular basis.

Mr. Speaker, with that I thank him again. This is a lot of work, which you know, to come down to this floor every week and talk about issues of importance to our Nation. So I thank you.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to lend my voice to those of my colleagues on the importance of comprehensive immigration reform.

The United States is a Nation of immigrants. Most Americans trace their lineage beyond our borders. The promise of the American Dream is what brings people from all corners of the world to this Nation. This country was founded on the principle that here lies the land of opportunity, and that anyone can achieve success through hard work.

But for the millions of undocumented immigrants of Hispanic, Asian, and African descent living in America today, the American Dream is just a promise, a promise they hope their children may one day realize.

Many immigrants are confronted with the same harsh realities that plague communities of color every day, namely, racial profiling based on unreasonable suspicion, systematic criminalization in order to fill private prisons, economic injustice that holds many in the bondage of poverty—all examples of pitfalls that unfairly, yet intentionally, trap, uproot and destroy far too many individuals and families.

Children in immigrant families also continue to struggle. According to the Pew Research Center, there are an estimated 1 million unauthorized immigrants under the age of 18 in the United States, and as many as 4.5 million U.S.-born children whose parents are unauthorized. These children live in fear.

Every year, nearly 200,000 non-citizens, many with children who are U.S. citizens, are deported and torn away from their families.

□ 2020

As families are torn apart, children are forced to choose between separation from their parent or leaving the only place they've ever called home.

How does America end the culture of fear among immigrant communities and help preserve families? First, we must create a pathway to citizenship that encourages, not discourages, legalization. Second, we must address the issues of mass detention and unjust criminality of immigrant populations. Third, our laws and justice system must place a premium on keeping families together. By creating flexible and equitable immigration policies that prioritize the unification and stability of immigrant families, we strengthen the fabric that holds our communities together.

Lastly, as a former mayor, I would be remiss if I did not mention the important role our States and local governments will play in immigration reform. As undocumented immigrants come out of the shadows of society, our State and our local governments will need our support more than ever. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., once said:

History will have to record that the greatest tragedy of this period of social transition was not the strident clamor of the bad people, but the appalling silence of the good people.

Today, we are in a period of social transition. As the "conscience of the United States Congress," the CBC cannot and will not stand by in silence. When history is recounted, the record will reflect the stance that the CBC took in supporting comprehensive immigration reform—reform that not only includes individuals of Hispanic and Asian descent, but also thousands of immigrants from within the African diaspora, and reform that dignifies the struggles of the undocumented and reconnects broken family bonds.

I urge my colleagues to unite behind comprehensive immigration reform.

Mr. JEFFRIES. I thank the gentlelady from Ohio, the distinguished CBC chair, for her remarks and her observations.

I think there were several important points that were raised by our chair, Congresswoman FUDGE. First, sometimes the immigration reform debate has been characterized as perhaps just a Latino issue. At other times it's been characterized as perhaps an Asian issue. There are times that the immigration reform debate is characterized as an Eastern European issue. But really, immigration reform is an American issue. It cuts to the heart of who we are and what we will become. It affects every community. And as Congresswoman FUDGE indicated, there are black immigrants in the United States to whom the issue of creating a pathway towards citizenship is extremely important.

It's estimated that there are 3 million black immigrants in this country. Approximately 400,000 are undocumented. Who are these immigrants of African descent? Some are from the Caribbean, two-thirds of which are from nation states such as Jamaica, Trinidad, and Haiti. Others are from the continent of Africa. They are from countries like Nigeria and Ghana, Sudan, Ethiopia, and Eritrea.

I'm pleased that we've been joined by the distinguished gentlelady from the Ninth Congressional District in New York, who represents one of the largest immigrant populations for a congressional district not just in the city of New York, but anywhere in this Nation. She's been a dynamic leader on this issue.

Ms. CLARKE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to add my voice to the CBC and amplify the message of support for true and real comprehensive immigration reform. First, I would like to thank our newly elected colleagues, the gentleman from Brooklyn, New York, Congressman HAKEEM JEFFRIES, and the gentleman from Las Vegas, Nevada, Mr. STEVEN HORSFORD, for hosting this evening's CBC hour.

Mr. Speaker, I commend President Obama for his commitment to comprehensive immigration reform, and I reaffirm my commitment to working with his administration and our colleagues to make true reform a reality. Having said that, I want to challenge the President and all of our colleagues to expand upon the face and the voice of immigration, adding new dimensions to the unfolding debate.

When two major immigration speeches such as those that President Obama made in El Paso, Texas, in 2011, and last week in Las Vegas, Nevada, in Mr. HORSFORD's part of the country, omit the contributions of immigrants from the continent of Africa, it paints an incomplete picture of the idealized gorgeous mosaic or melting pot, if you will, that the United States of America represents. We must embrace the diversity of those who are impacted by reform and understand that this debate cannot solely rest on the shoulders of our Latino sisters and brothers.

The stigmatization of the Latino population as the target immigrant population has resulted in a skewed depiction of the true diversity of the immigrant population resident in our country. We have immigrants represented from almost every Nation around the world, and we must recognize all of those who are building communities and strengthening our Nation.

Since 2009, I've been working with my colleagues to diversify the voice and the face of the immigration debate. The burden of a broken system does not encumber one group of immigrants alone. There are approximately 3 million immigrants from the African diaspora in the United States, the vast majority of whom entered the country with legal documentation. The impact

of immigrants of the African diaspora from the continent of Africa, the Caribbean region, and South and Central America has been massive in scale. As the representative of the Ninth Congressional District of New York, I am proud to serve a very significant Caribbean, South and Central American, and continental African immigrant community whose immigration experience is as diverse as the countries from which they've come. In fact, I represent one of the most diverse, immigrant-rich districts in the Nation, with people who have come from the Middle East, South Asia, Asia, Russia, the Eastern European nations. It's a virtual United Nations.

Many entered our shores with student visas, like my parents did, to pursue careers in medicine, science, education, and other professions. Many are proud business owners of law firms, restaurants, grocery stores, shipping companies, and hair braiding venues. There are those who come as asylum seekers, fleeing the tumult of war, famine, and genocide. No matter their reason for immigrating, they've come to the U.S. to be productive, taxpaying members of our civil society and to attain the American Dream.

Unfortunately, immigrants of the African diaspora, like so many other groups from around the world, are dealing with backlogged immigration processing; families being ripped apart; falling "out of status" because they have aged out of the legal immigration process; racial and status discrimination; unfair criminal aggravated felony laws that prohibit judicial review; deportation processes that violate civil and human rights; an insecure and prohibitive student visa program; limited access to work permits; and much, much more.

You see, many immigrants arrive on our shores during a time in their lives when they are the most productive. Any delay in processing these individuals, in bringing them to the fore, denies us the opportunity to access their talents, their skills, and their ability in the prime of their lives.

□ 2030

Additionally, African Americans, those descendants of the slave trade—whom I fondly call long-time stakeholders of this Nation—have been affected by the broken system as well. Working-class Americans of all backgrounds, races, and ethnicities are adversely affected with a broken immigration system. They are facing depressed wages due to unscrupulous and illegal corporate hiring practices. Urban communities aren't being adequately counted by the Census and other surveys, resulting in the reduction of adequate government services and Federal resources to meet the needs of the actual population in the communities and increasing the strain on current public services.

Urban communities are exposed to more crime, as the undocumented are

more reluctant to report crimes; and African Americans are dealing with increased racial and status discrimination, as many are subjected to interrogations based on citizenship.

This is why, as a child of the Caribbean—second-generation American—and a sister of the African diaspora, I believe that it is my duty and that of the Congressional Black Caucus to ensure that the voices of immigrants of the African diaspora will be at the forefront, shoulder to shoulder with the Congressional Hispanic Caucus and the Caucus of the Asian and Pacific Islanders; that the voices of the immigrants of the African diaspora will be heard. We will make sure that this debate is as diverse as the population it encompasses.

The effectiveness of the immigration reform debate will rely heavily on the diversity of its support. That is why I call upon my sisters and brothers within the African diaspora to join with the members of the CBC, myself and our colleagues, in making sure that our voices are heard and our needs are adequately addressed.

Mr. Speaker, the time is now to pass a comprehensive bill that includes streamlining the immigration process, humane enforcement strategies that address the needs of children and other vulnerable people, use alternatives to detention, create enforceable detention standards, safeguard our investments in our DREAM Act kids, and outline essential due process reforms.

Our national security is at stake. Our moral standing in the world depends upon it. And the American people—many of whom are first- and second-generation immigrants—have demanded it. If we turn our backs on those law-abiding contributors to our civil society that come to our shores only to embrace the American Dream, to labor in rebuilding our great Nation, to strengthen our economy, to serve honorably in our military, we turn our back on ourselves and our future. You don't have to believe me. Just ask the people of Japan, where population growth has been stagnant as a result of a prohibitive immigration policy.

It is time for people of good will to stand for those who fear or are unable to stand for themselves. Let us stand together for comprehensive immigration reform.

Mr. JEFFRIES. Thank you, Congresswoman CLARKE, for those very eloquent and thoughtful remarks.

The Congressional Black Caucus consists of 42 members representing a variety of communities all across this great Nation. We've been joined today by two Representatives from the Lone Star State, one of whom, Representative SHEILA JACKSON LEE, has distinguished herself in many different areas, but has been a thought leader in the area of comprehensive immigration reform.

She is currently the ranking member on the House Committee on Homeland Security Subcommittee on the Border

and Maritime Security, and also is a senior member of the House Committee on the Judiciary and the important Subcommittee on Immigration and Border Security. We're thankful that she's been a long-time champion of a fair and humane immigration system, and I yield the floor to Congresswoman SHEILA JACKSON LEE.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. I'd like to thank the distinguished gentleman from New York and the distinguished gentleman from Nevada. I particularly want to thank them for hosting this vital discussion, this Special Order, and pay tribute to them for doing a service to the Nation.

When we speak on the floor of the House and we come from disparate States, from New York, Nevada, Texas, and Ohio—in fact, I think we have just about covered America—it has an amazing impact on our colleagues, and certainly constituents. So I owe and we all owe you a debt of gratitude for the forward thinking, and particularly since today has a double meaning. This is the 100th birthday of Rosa Parks. She is often called the Mother of Civil Rights. And then our President, over the last couple of weeks, and as the gentleman from Nevada knows, spent time with him, to speak eloquently about the need for this pathway of access to legalization going forward.

So I am grateful again for your willingness to host this and to begin to surge forward, collaborate with members of the Congressional Black Caucus, and giving them information in their respective districts, and collaborating with the Asian Pacific Caucus, the Caribbean Caucus, and as well the Hispanic Caucus. I think there are three of us, but we now have a new Caribbean, on which a number of us serve, and as well the African diaspora, which includes our brothers and sisters that have been mentioned already on the floor. We can go vastly beyond them. It's my effort today, and I thank both the gentlemen from New York and from Nevada for some potent posters that I hope that I will share with all of you.

Let me share both words from President Obama and some abbreviated words from Dr. Martin Luther King. But the words from President Obama stated, as it relates to the question of immigration reform, that our journey is not complete until we find a better way to welcome the striving, hopeful immigrants who still see America as the land of opportunity, until bright young students and engineers are enlisted in our workforce rather than expelled from our country.

I think the important part of this discussion tonight is to make sure that the landscape of immigration reform is a landscape of many faces, many heritages, many backgrounds, many regions in the United States, many continents, and that it is important for all of us to have a commitment to better opportunity for all. But as we do that, I think education is crucial. For as this

discussion goes forward, I want my friends to know that there will be moments of great contention, there will be moments of disagreement, and there will be moments of misrepresentation.

It is important for the broad diaspora to understand that we are in this leaking boat together, and that when we utilize the term of "civil rights" or we use Rosa Parks or we speak to the words that Dr. King said on April 3, 1968, that said that he could see a Promised Land and that he might not get there with us, but he knew that we as a people would get there some day, I cannot imagine in the 50th year of his "I Have a Dream" speech that he could not foresee that America's diversity would be its strength, and that African Americans who came first to this country as slaves could then join with others who came in fishing boats, in airplanes, that walked across the border for greater opportunity and make America the dream, the great Nation, the Promised Land of which he predicted.

That is what immigration reform is. It is not to take from someone else and to give to someone else. It is not to diminish the civil rights struggle of the African American population. It is not to ignore the history of others, but it is to say that we have a common ground. That is the way that we're going to pass immigration reform.

□ 2040

If you are a Southerner and a Republican from the South, you have as much invested in an America that gives opportunity to all as you may be from the wonderful districts that are represented on this floor. And until we understand that in the House, and until the Speaker understands and accepts it, that this is not taking away, this is not undermining anyone's view of America, it is to say that the view of America is a promised land that so many come for. It is a recognition that Americans have come through the 1800s when the Irish came because of the famine, the Italians came in the early 1900s. Other groups have come since then, large numbers of Hispanics, Asian Americans, South Asian Americans, those who have come from the Asian Pacific area, those who have come from Pakistan, India and Bangladesh, those who have come from the Caribbean, those who come from Africa. They have all come, and we have to recognize that.

One of the issues that seems to be coming up over and over again as we look at this issue, and I will speak specifically to the Senate's proposal, the general path to citizenship, it talks about the 11 million undocumented individuals, that the path of citizenship will only take place if the border is secured and visa overstays are effectively combated.

Let me be clear that great progress has been made over the Clinton administration, moving into the Bush administration, George Bush, and then on to

the Obama administration, particularly in the Obama administration because you can begin to see any suggestion that we have not worked to secure the border is based upon lack of information and lack of facts. So I want to thank my colleague for a poster that, in fact, says that the number of Border Patrol agents has more than doubled in the past 10 years.

When I first began writing legislation in 2004, 2003, 2005, we were shortchanged on border security agents. Working with the Senate and working with Presidents, we funded the increase of border security or Border Patrol agents, and we can see now that the majority of agents are assigned to the U.S.-Mexican border, more than 16,000, and more—and it's growing—that are basically at the border now. I think we can do more, if you will, for the northern border; and I look forward to working with my chairperson of the subcommittee on that issue.

But we cannot let the discussion get bogged down in talking about we can't provide some access to citizenship. In my legislation, I called it "earned access to citizenship," which means there were fines to be paid, charitable issues to be paid, you must be vetted; but here on the Senate proposal, it talks about securing the border.

I want to be able to be responsive to their concerns, but they should also look at the facts, and they can see that between ICE and CBP, ICE is the internal enforcement, CBP, you can see the increase in the amounts of money that have gone up in the billions of dollars, now close to \$18 billion between ICE and CBP, CBP being a little bit under \$12 billion, that we have truly under the Obama administration been serious about border security. In fact, there is a poster board here that suggests that the deportations have gone up. That's not the right way to proceed.

So my point today is that there must be common ground. In the Senate, they talk about young, undocumented immigrants who were brought to the U.S. when they were children will have a more direct path to citizenship. That must be clear because those are the DREAM Act kids. And, in fact, those individuals are the talent that we are throwing away, young people who are in college who are contributing to society who can help bring their families, reunite their families, have been forced to deportation.

I want to congratulate the President for his executive order that provided a deferred adjudication for DREAM Act youngsters as a basis of saying that the ICE should enforce deportation on those who are a threat to our community and prioritize those distinctive from those who are here who are not doing us any harm who are being educated. So the Senate proposal talks about young people. It talks about the backlogs of legal immigration and family reunification and the employment visa process.

It also allows more immigrants performing lower-skilled occupations to

enter the country when we were created. I want to change that word. I don't like the idea of lower skilled. People come to work, if they are skilled, they have something to contribute, that is the basis upon which we should look at it. But I think for the Congressional Black Caucus it is always important to say because our communities suffer unemployment in many parts of the country more so than others, that it is important in any immigration reform that we ensure that the employer has looked very hard for a person who is eligible for that job here in the United States.

That's how we educate our population. That's how we bring together the right kind of collaboration. High-skilled immigrants should be all of us. High-skilled individuals should be those in historically black colleges, Hispanic-serving colleges. We should encourage them to be part of science, technology, engineering and math. However, when there is an immigrant that is graduating from our top universities, or any of our universities, we should not ask them to leave. It is very important to do. And we should ensure that they have opportunities.

The President's general path to citizenship provides a pathway to citizenship. These immigrants can register for provisional legal status. And his point is, which I believe we should join in, that we should not let border security get in the way of making sure that we move forward on a legal status process. Young people who, again, were brought here as children should have an expedited path to citizenship by attending college or by serving 2 years in the military. Slight differences that we can find a common ground, legal immigrants, he speaks to the plan would increase the percentage of family-sponsored immigrants coming into the country over every 7 years, from 7 to 15 percent.

This goes to a complaint that you will hear from those in Nevada, those in New York, those in your very diverse districts, they complain about—not complain—let me say it differently. They want to be reunited with their family members. And one of the starkest things that happens to any of us who visit with immigrants in our congressional office, what about the immigrant who wants to go home for a dying relative, or the relative wants to come because there is a dying relative here in the United States.

I had that happen in my district. I had a South Korean student who was shot on the streets of Houston, and tragically he became paralyzed. When his father came here to be able to comfort him, his father had been here, he went back out, he was held and detained. We finally got that resolved. But we must find a way to have this punishment, this pain, that so many of our immigrants are experiencing, we must find a way to be able to work on this in a productive and smart manner. This speaks to the fact that we have

not been slouches, we have not been slouches as it relates to border security.

I want to speak to the issue of the diversity visa program, which was a target of our friends who maybe did not understand what that means. But the diversity visa program was to allow people who did not get in the normal visa system. It has proven to be a way of helping those who come from the continent of Africa, those who come from a number of other areas where it is very difficult to get a visa. Nearly 15 million people representing about 20 million with family members included were registered late last year for the 2012 diversity visa program under which only 15,000 visa winners were to be selected.

That shows the intensity of the diversity visa. And some want to get rid of it. It's a lot of African immigrants; it's a lot of people trying to come to be with their families. Diversity visa immigrants succeed and contribute to the U.S. economy. According to the Congressional Research Service, in FY 2009, diversity visa immigrants were 2.5 times more likely to report managerial and professional occupations.

The founder of it, Representative Bruce Morrison, said that the heart of the definition of America is what this program is about. All nationalities are welcome. Ambassador Johnny Young said the program engenders hope abroad for those who are too often without it, hope for a better life. And so I hope as we look at immigration reform we will not attempt to eliminate opportunities to bring families together.

Finally, with respect to security issues, there's no significant evidence of a security risk with the diversity visa. The GAO found in 2007 no documented evidence.

These points about the issue of where we can come together and where there are distinctions is to raise the specter of how serious and difficult this process may be. The Congressional Black Caucus will be pivotal in its role, one, because it is the conscience of this Congress; two, because we have the uncanny ability of seeing from a broader perspective what we have gone through in our lifetime, what our communities go through. We've seen discrimination, and we are sympathetic and sensitive to how we can help others.

So I think the challenge is as we proceed on this process that all of us be included in this discussion, that the working group includes members of the Congressional Black Caucus and that as we encourage legislation to come to the Judiciary Committee, which is the committee that I sit on, the Immigration Subcommittee that ZOE LOFGREN chairs and which I'm second on that committee, and as it goes through Homeland Security where the ranking member, Mr. THOMPSON, and Mr. MCCAUL share the leadership, in Judiciary Mr. CONYERS and Mr. GOODLATTE, where I am the ranking member on the

Border Security Subcommittee, that we, through the Congressional Black Caucus, find a way to uphold the values of our ancestors, uphold the values of the pioneers and leaders who have traveled through the journey of civil rights that we can see the plight and the pain of those who come now.

□ 2050

I want to say in closing that as a Member of the Congress having the privilege of serving the 18th Congressional District, even in a city like Houston, it is enormously diverse, having a large number of counselor offices, and people who have come from all walks of life, who have come through outdoors in the 18th Congressional District begging for help, pleading for their children not being deported, and I would say to my colleagues you can not, and those of you who come from this diverse background, fully understand what it's like to hear a mother's shrill scream in your office when you said to them that we are going to stop the deportation of your child. We've all understood that pain if we've encountered immigrants who do nothing more and want nothing more than to live the American Dream, who are paying taxes, building houses, and working for the betterment of us all, serving in the military and shedding blood.

For this reason I think it is crucial that we try to overcome the hurdles, the differences of opinion, the tension that will rise, and have a common place to start from and a common ending. And that is the betterment of all people who contribute and make America great.

Comprehensive immigration reform will not hurt those of us who stand on this floor, and we will not allow it to hurt those who we represent. It will be a focus roadmap for all of us to work for a great and wonderful promised land that Martin King dreamed about and spoke about a few years ago.

Mr. JEFFRIES. I thank the gentle lady from Texas for her very pointed observations on a variety of different issues concerning the comprehensive immigration reform issue.

I would just like to amplify for a moment one point that was made as it relates to the significance of the diversity visa lottery program. It's a program that in its conception is designed to make sure that immigrants from underrepresented parts of the world have an opportunity to come to America and participate in the American Dream. And in the context of this diversity visa lottery program, approximately 20 percent of the African immigrants who are here in this country are here as a result of participating in that program.

It has been an instrumental vehicle for ensuring diversity as it relates to the presence of immigrants from the African continent, who by the way, statistics have shown, tend to be more educated in their attainment of college degrees than any other immigrant

group. As a result, they are very much contributing to moving the society forward. And for that reason I believe it will be important for the CBC to continue to stand up for this program as we move forward with comprehensive immigration reform, and so I thank the gentlelady for those observations.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Will the gentleman yield for just one quick moment. I want to applaud him for that and just add two groups that we did not mention yet that will really be impacted by comprehensive immigration reform: Liberians who came here on deferred enforcement, who are now still in limbo and worked with us over the years. We've been, if you would say, advocates for them. And Haitians, who have a distinctive pathway into citizenship, who have certainly been contributing, fought with us in the Revolutionary War.

And you are absolutely right, the diversity visa has been a lifeline, not for terrorists, but a lifeline for hard-working immigrants. And I hope that when we debate this, as I said, mountains of tension or disagreement, that we can find common ground to include all these groups that will help better America and grow America strong.

Mr. JEFFRIES. One of the things that we hope to accomplish today as we move forward in the context of advancing this immigration reform debate is making sure that the facts surrounding the issue of immigration are well known. This is a Nation of immigrants, and it's a Nation of laws. And some have articulated the concern that we must secure the border before we can move forward and create a pathway toward citizenship for those who are in the country and undocumented.

Much has been made about the southwestern border in particular. And the gentleman from Nevada, I believe, has some statistics that he can speak to as to the progress that has been made in securing the border, points that were also made by the gentlelady from Texas.

Mr. HORSFORD. Mr. Speaker, again, I would like to thank the gentleman from New York for yielding and to expound on some of the points that the gentlelady from Texas made in regards to the tremendous progress that has been made on strengthening the border.

She touched on the doubling of the number of Border Patrol agents from 10,000 to 21,000 agents in just the past year. That's a doubling since 2004 of resources. And this is tremendous in that it actually is the largest per year enforcement of any other federal law enforcement combined. It's \$17.6 billion worth of enforcement on our border. And so progress has been made. And the deportations signify that. Half of these deportations have been to individuals who committed crimes, illegal crimes, and were deported for that reason.

But let me also touch on another element, which the gentlelady also dis-

cussed. And that is immigration, and the history of immigration policy in our country has always focused on the family and keeping the family together and reuniting family members. And so we have to be careful when we talk about deportation, what that means for individuals, because this is a human rights issue.

In my district, in Congressional District 4, I met with a group of citizens on Sunday before the President came, and there was one family there who explained to me a situation where the mother had been deported and the children now are in foster care. They cannot be reunited with their family because of the status issues. And that is something that is having a human toll because we have a broken immigration system that must be fixed. That has always been a cornerstone of our immigration policy in this country, the focus on keeping our families together, not just on labor or economic issues, which should be at the forefront as well.

And so enforcement has been a big cornerstone, and should be a major cornerstone, of the policy going forward. But the pathway to citizenship is the cornerstone. And I believe the Congressional Black Caucus as a stakeholder in this discussion, working with our colleagues on the other side and in the other Chamber, must articulate why there cannot be a precondition, a litmus test on border security, in order to provide for a pathway to citizenship that so many individuals depend on.

Let me also discuss one other element of a comprehensive immigration reform that is necessary, and it's important to my district, in Congressional District 4, and that's the focus on enhancing travel and tourism.

The administration under President Obama is committed to increasing U.S. travel and tourism by facilitating legitimate travel while maintaining our Nation's security. Consistent with the President's executive order on travel and tourism, the President's proposal securely streamlines visa and foreign visitor processing. It also strengthens law enforcement cooperation while maintaining the program's robust counterterrorism and criminal information-sharing initiatives. It facilitates more efficient travel by allowing greater flexibility to designate countries for participation in the visa waiver program, which allows citizens of designated countries to visit the United States without obtaining a visa.

□ 2100

Finally, it permits the State Department to waive interview requirements for certain very low-risk visa applicants, permitting resources to be focused on higher risk applicants, and it creates a pilot for premium visa processing.

So these are all of the components that have to be part of the comprehensive immigration reform. These are the tenets which the Congressional Black

Caucus, in working with the Congressional Hispanic Caucus and the Congressional Asian Pacific Caucus, believes to be the cornerstones and the principles by which any comprehensive immigration bill should be passed.

Mr. JEFFRIES. Thank you, Congressman HORSFORD.

We have been joined by our distinguished classmate, the gentleman from Texas, Congressman MARC VEASEY, who represents an extremely diverse district in the Dallas area and who has been a tremendous thought leader on this issue, and it is my honor to recognize him.

Mr. VEASEY. I want to thank my colleague HAKEEM JEFFRIES, who is from the great State of New York, and Mr. HORSFORD for their leadership on this issue. They, too, understand how important it is that we speak out on this issue. It is not only important to our constituents and our States but to the entire country.

Mr. Speaker, I thank you for the opportunity to address the Chamber on the very important topic of comprehensive immigration reform. I would also like to express my gratitude to the Congressional Black Caucus for not only their leadership on this issue but also for allowing me, as a member of the caucus, to continue this meaningful and urgent discussion. As Members of Congress, it is our duty to be the voices of our constituents by creating and passing legislation that addresses their concerns.

For much too long, 11 million voices have waited for Congress to work together on comprehensive immigration reform. They're in neighborhoods like the ones I represent in Dallas and Fort Worth and Oak Cliff, which is in Dallas on the north side of Fort Worth. This is an issue that is very important, not only to those neighborhoods, but to the neighborhoods in the entirety of the district that I represent. The consensus on this issue has never been stronger, and I am proud to see Members on both sides of the aisle working together and finding a practical solution to this problem while President Obama leads the way.

I applaud the comprehensive immigration reform efforts, including the proposals put forth by the President and bipartisan groups of Senators, which call for protecting our borders while respecting the unity and sanctity of our families. Our undocumented immigrant community includes DREAMer schoolchildren, who are excelling in math and science, wanting to attend college in the only country they've ever known. It also includes hard-working men and women who are only trying to make an honest living and provide for their families.

Comprehensive immigration reform is about accountability and responsible public policy. It is not feasible, economical, or moral to propose the deportation of 11 million people who are living and working hard in our country. What reform calls for is responsible

public policy that provides certainty to employers that the people wanting to work are legally eligible to do so, thereby bringing a significant population of our country out of the shadows.

Mr. Speaker, our borders are more secure than ever before. Border security is a serious issue, and we must continue to enforce our laws, but we can also enact a fair immigration system by working together. Providing appropriate protections to undocumented workers, including fair wages and safe working conditions, is the right thing to do to ensure the development of our economy and our Nation's security.

As the Congressman from the Dallas-Fort Worth metropolis, I understand the necessity of bipartisanship on this issue. My first days in office have been devoted to relationships and coalition-building on both sides of the aisle. I look forward to continuing those efforts, and I will not stop until we achieve a fair and comprehensive immigration reform plan. I will work closely with my friends in the Congressional Hispanic Caucus and in the Congressional Black Caucus and with all of my colleagues who would like to join this effort. The voices of those in my district and across the country are being heard. It's time to make comprehensive immigration reform a reality.

Mr. JEFFRIES. I thank the gentleman from Texas.

As he indicated, the time is now for us to move forward—to find common ground and to figure out how we can advance this issue in a manner that respects the security concerns that have been articulated but which also recognizes that, 6 years ago, several benchmarks were set forth for security measures to be reached in order for comprehensive immigration reform and a pathway towards citizenship to be created.

Six years ago, there was a call for at least 20,000 border protection agents. Right now, there are 21,400 border protection agents. Six years ago, there was a call for a fence to be constructed along the southern border of approximately 670 miles, although our border security folks have said they believe a fence would be adequate that is 652 miles, 651 miles of which have already been constructed. There was a call for video surveillance assets—these are cameras and radar—deployed along the borders of this country. Six years ago, the call was for 105 such video surveillance assets. Mr. Speaker, right now, there are more than 250 deployed in the United States of America. We have met or exceeded the security benchmarks that have been set. That's why it is time for us to move forward with comprehensive immigration reform.

We have also been joined by another distinguished colleague of ours, the gentleman from Newark, New Jersey (Mr. PAYNE), and I recognize him at this time.

Mr. PAYNE. Let me first say "thank you" to the gentleman from New York,

the gentleman from across the river with whom we are looking forward to having a great working relationship, as well as with the gentleman from Nevada, who has also distinguished himself very early in this Congress.

As we debate this issue, we must not forget that we are a Nation of immigrants, and it is our rich history of immigration that has strengthened this country generation after generation. Yes, we must secure our borders, but we must also recognize that there have been a record number of deportations and seizures over the last 4 years. This issue of border security cannot be used as a fear tactic to prevent progress. In my district, people migrate from all over the globe, not just from Latin America, but from the Caribbean and Africa and Asia as well, and they are all in search of the same thing—the American Dream.

Children who were brought here through no fault of their own and who think of themselves as Americans wait in limbo, so we have a moral obligation to fix our broken system. It is not only the right thing to do, but it is the practical thing to do. Over 11 million undocumented workers live in our communities. They go to our schools, and they work among us every day. It is time for Congress to provide these 11 million people their chance to come out of the shadows without the specter of deportation hanging over their heads.

It's also time to streamline the legal immigration process and to make it more efficient for high-skilled workers and those working in science fields to be able to stay and keep their talents here.

In my district—the 10th district of New Jersey, and in every corner of America, immigrants are receiving degrees in science, technology, engineering, and math. They are the business leaders and innovators of the future. But when they graduate, they are sent home.

If we want to remain the pre-eminent country in the world—if we want to continue to attract the best talent—if we want to continue to out-innovate the rest of the world—if we want to continue to be a just nation. Then we must act now.

Mr. JEFFRIES. I thank the gentleman from New Jersey for his comments. I also want to thank the distinguished members of the CBC, including my colleague from Nevada, Congressman HORSFORD, for his leadership, for his eloquence, and for the facts that he has brought to bear.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of common-sense immigration reforms that will foster economic growth, keep our families and our communities together, and protect workers' rights. America's immigration system is broken, and we must forge a bipartisan agreement to fix it.

As a member of the Congressional Black Caucus, I will ensure that the needs of all communities are addressed in immigration reform. Many undocumented immigrants were brought here as children and know the United States as their only home. I support the

DREAM Act to allow these bright young people to build their futures here and contribute to our nation's prosperity. Strong families are the cornerstone of our Nation, and I believe provisions to guarantee family unity must be included in any serious immigration reform bill. I am dedicated to keeping families together by supporting a pathway to citizenship for undocumented immigrants.

At the same time, Congress must ensure that immigration reform positively impacts economic and employment opportunities for all Americans. I will prioritize improving access to adult education programs and increasing job training opportunities so that all Americans can pursue their dreams and provide for their families.

It is time to come together to enact fair and reasonable immigration reforms that advance our national interests and honor our history as a country of immigrants. I will work hard in Congress to ensure that these reforms strengthen our communities and drive our economy forward.

CORRECTION TO THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD OF FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2013 AT PAGE H309

(e) OTHER COMMITTEE PUBLICATIONS.—

(1) *House Reports.*

(i) Any document published by the Committee as a House Report, other than a report of the Committee on a measure which has been approved by the Committee, shall be approved by the Committee at a meeting, and Members shall have the same opportunity to submit views as provided for in Rule IV(b).

(ii) Not later than January 2nd of each year, the Committee shall submit to the House an annual report on the activities of the Committee.

(iii) After an adjournment sine die of a regular session of a Congress or after December 15th, whichever occurs first, the Chairman may file the annual Activity Report for that Congress with the Clerk of the House at any time and without the approval of the Committee, provided that a copy of the report has been available to each Member of the Committee for at least seven calendar days and that the report includes any supplemental, minority, or additional views submitted by a Member of the Committee. [See House Rule XI 1(d)]

(2) *Other Documents.*

(i) Subject to paragraphs (ii) and (iii), the Chairman may approve the publication of any document as a Committee print which in the Chairman's discretion he determines to be useful for the information of the Committee.

(ii) Any document to be published as a Committee print that purports to express the views, findings, conclusions, or recommendations of the Committee or any of its Subcommittees, other than a report of the Committee on a measure that has been approved by the Committee or its Subcommittees, as applicable, in a meeting or otherwise in writing by a majority of the Members, and such Members shall have the right to submit supplemental, minority, or additional views for inclusion in the print within at least 48 hours after such approval.

(iii) Any document to be published as a Committee print, other than a document described in subsection (ii) of this Rule, shall: (a) include on its cover the following statement: "This document has been printed for informational purposes only and does not